

ROMAN ART

Romans used Art to honor gods,
celebrate events and proclaim power

History behind the art

- Admired beauty and perfection of Greek Art
- Preferred lifelike details that showed oddities and character of a subject
- Often artists from captured territories would produce the art

Who became the artists

- Educated middle class
- Often people from captured territories like Greece or Egypt
- Apprentices were young men that were learning the art methods
- Art was often commissioned by the wealthy
 - Commissioned means hired to produce the art pieces
- Artists did not sign their pieces

Unique forms of Roman Art

- Fresco – painting on dry plaster
- Mosaic – placing bits of stone or pottery into wet plaster
- Sculpture
- Architecture
 - Columns
 - Domes
 - Arenas
 - Arches

Materials used

- Paints

- Paints made of ground rocks and animal dyes
- Paint mixed with-lime, milk, sap, or egg yolk for thickening

- Brushes

- Made from twigs, wood, reeds and they were called a stylus

- Plaster

- Made from marble dust

- Concrete

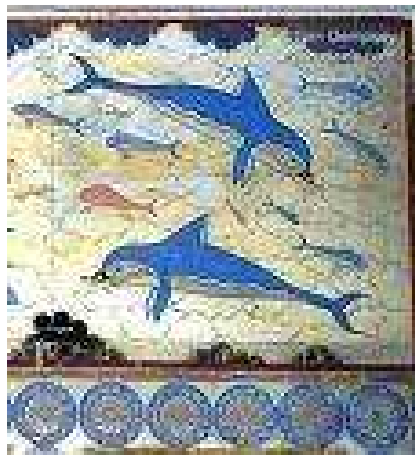
- Made from limestone dust and water plus small rocks and volcanic stones

- Scrolls

- Early books printed in Latin by hand originally on papyrus

Fresco

- Painting done on wet plaster.
- This type of art was usually done on the walls and ceilings of the Patrician homes.
- It was usually very colorful and the subjects used in the frescos were gods, heroes, hunting, landscapes and animals.



Mosaic



- This type of art was also done in wet plaster.
- Mosaics were often placed on walls but more often used as a design on the floor
- The most common mosaic was “Cave Canem”
 - “Beware of Dog”



Sculpture

- Borrowed ideas from the Greeks and Egyptians
- Carved in marble, bronze, plaster and wood
- Usually to commemorate a person or event
- Many of these pieces were bust (only the heads)





Architecture



- Columns
 - Used Doric, Ionic and Corinthian
- Arches
 - Supported weight of a ceiling on the ends
- Domes – most famous **Pantheon**
- Arenas- most famous **Colosseum**
- To build they used scaffolding, cranes and pulleys